COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday, the— *13th of February 1933.*
2nd of Kumbham 1108.

The House met at half-past eleven of the clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. A. I. Mani, K. T. Mathew, K. Mohamed Seethi, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan and Mrs. Swaris were absent.

Swearing in of new Members.

C. G. Herbert Esq., I. C. S., Diwan of Cochin and Ex-officio President, first took the oath. Messrs. Rao Bahadur T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar (Diwan Peishkar) and P. C. Varkey (nominated) also then took and subscribed the oath of allegiance.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

President.—Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Council.—Before we proceed with the business of the House I should like, with the permission of Hon'ble Members, to refer briefly to the work of the recent Round Table Conference which concluded its labours this Christmas. As Hon'ble Members know, this Session of the Round Table Conference was called to carry on the work started by the first two Round Table Conferences and continued by the three Committees which visited India in the course of last year. During its labours the third Session of the Round Table Conference which has just concluded did very considerable work on such questions as the franchise for the various Houses of the Legislatures, both in the Provinces and the Federal Government; the distribution of powers between the different Houses in the Federal Legislature; the powers of the Governor-General and Governors in relation to legislation; the distribution of seats amongst the States and British India in these Legislatures; and the financial arrangements to be made before a Federation can be established. I do not propose to occupy the time of this House by dealing with all these questions; it would take far too long and moreover reports which embody the work done by the Conference and its Committees have already been published. Any Hon'ble Member who wishes to go into these questions in detail therefore can do so by reading the reports.

There are, however, two questions to which I should like to make brief reference since they affect the States and

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